

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/526,101

Examiner

Shelley Self

Applicant(s)

KETONEN, LAURI

Art Unit

3725

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/1/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Lowell A. Larson**  
Primary Examiner



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

The amendment filed on May 1, 2006 is sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance.

### ***Drawings***

The Examiner hereby approves the replacement drawings filed May 1, 2006.

### ***Specification***

The amendments to the specification have been approved and entered.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-9 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose or fairly suggest a feeder device in a timber harvester comprising a *middle row of links and outer rows of links, each row of links including rollers rolling in corresponding rolling guides characterized in that the outer rows of links of the roller chain are equipped with rollers of a greater diameter than the rollers of the middle row of links* in combination with the rest of the positively claimed limitations as set forth in claim 1.

The prior art of record, Ketonen (6,202,719) discloses a feeder device for a timber harvester which includes a frame (11), a 3 row roller chain/crawler track (17) arranged to rotate



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around a drive sprocket (24), a turnover member/idler (25) and rolling/slide guides (22, 23) having an adhesion side extending between the drive sprocket (24) and idler (25). Ketonen further discloses the crawler track (17) to be composed of a middle row of links (17.1) and two outer rows of links (17.2), the drive sprocket (24) driving the middle row of links while the outer rows of links (17.2) are supported by the idler (25). Ketonen discloses that spikes (18) on the outer/adhesion side of the crawler track (17) grip a tree (1) and further feed the tree to the harvesting machine (fig. 1). Ketonen does not disclose a *middle row of links and outer rows of links, each row of links including rollers rolling in corresponding rolling guides characterized in that the outer rows of links of the roller chain are equipped with rollers of a greater diameter than the rollers of the middle row of links*. Ketonen is silent to any middle and outer rollers or any relationship of the diameter of outer rollers to middle rollers. Further, Applicant's disclosure lends criticality to outer rollers having a diameter greater than the diameter of the middle roller(s) for increased life of the crawler track.

Neither the prior art of record nor any combination thereof discloses the claimed invention as set forth in claim 1. Therefore, claims 1-9 are deemed allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."



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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shelley Self whose telephone number is (571) 272-4524. The examiner can normally be reached Mon-Fri from 8:30am to 5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached at (571) 272-4419. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular and After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on accessing the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SSelf

May 8, 2006



Lowell A. Larson  
Primary Examiner



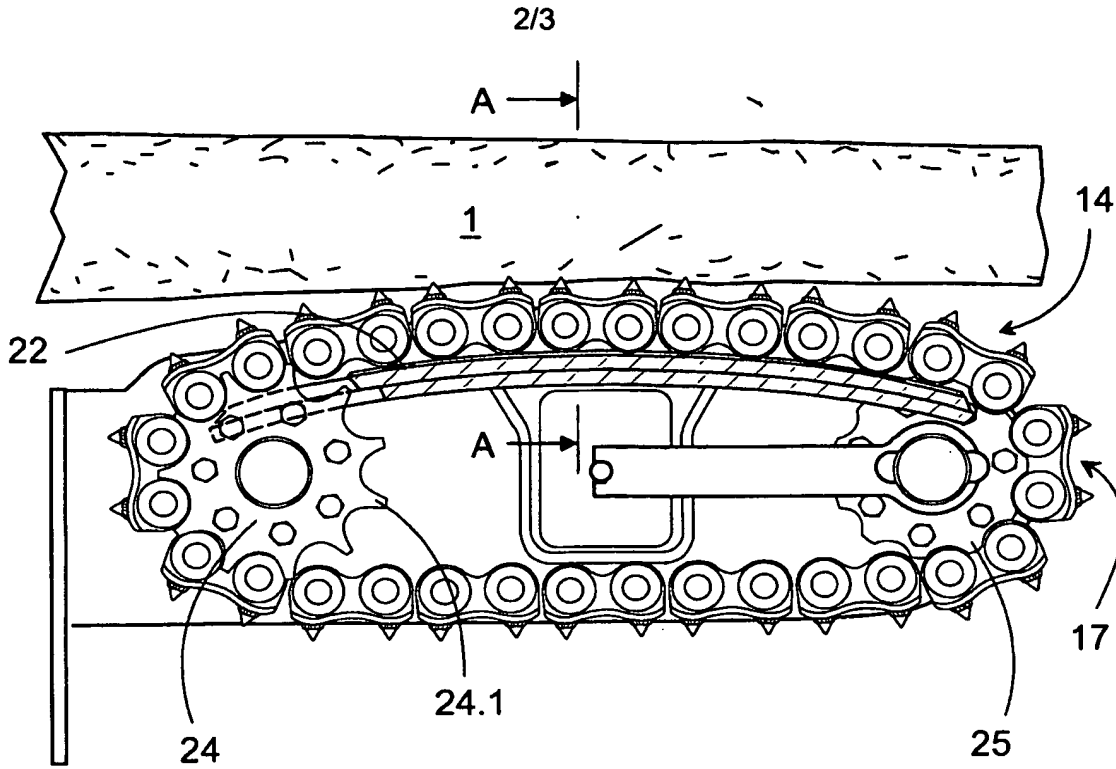


FIG. 2

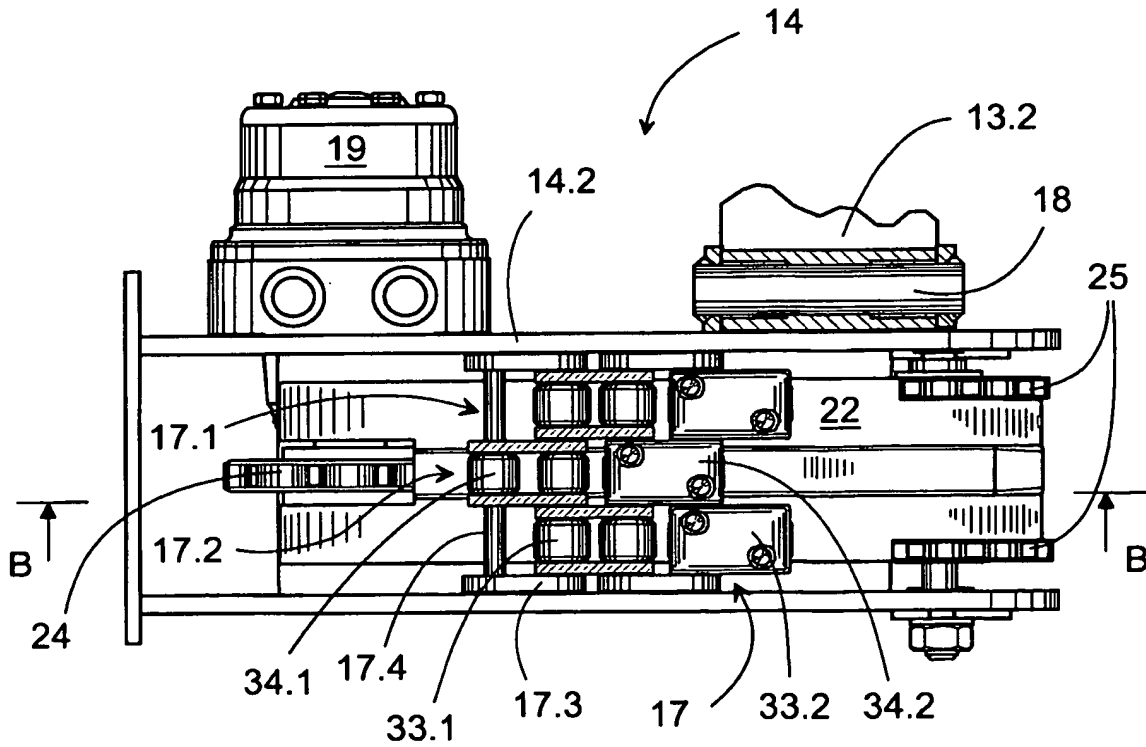


FIG. 3

Approved  
SSA